



# Art helps fight fires

Poster contest is part of Fire Prevention Week

Sunny  
High 74°  
Low 49°  
Details, 6B



# Marble set to be Iowa's rock

Iowa coach says senior will be starting point guard



# THE HAWK EYE

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## Area students join walk for a healthier state

Effort seeks to engage Iowans and their communities in bid to be healthiest state.

By JERMAINE PIGEE  
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WEST BURLINGTON — Because she does not have a lot of time to workout on her own time, Cammy Salvador could not wait to get on the West Burlington Jr./Sr. track Wednesday afternoon.

"You have to walk this way," said Vern Reed, Students Against Destructive Decisions and Seeds Amongst the Stones sponsor, as he directed students to walk counterclockwise around the

track.

Once on the track, Salvador, a WBHS sophomore, danced, skipped and of course, walked around the track with more than 400 of her peers.

"I have a job, I have school and homework, so I don't have time to walk on my own," she said. "I don't have a physical education class, but I weight lift in the morning and I don't run them. So, this is my only time to walk."

Salvador was just one of the thousands of Iowans participating in Iowa's Healthiest State Walk on Wednesday.

Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds called on fellow Iowans to join in the 1-kilometer Healthiest State Walk as part of an effort to become the

healthiest state in the nation.

A kilometer is about 7.5 city blocks, a 12-minute stroll for the average walker.

Nearly 600,000 Iowans have participated in the Healthiest State Initiative's walks in 2011 and 2012. An official tally of Iowans that participated in Wednesday's walk was not available Wednesday evening.

The Healthiest State Initiative is a privately led, public effort engaging Iowans and their communities throughout the state. Branstad launched the Healthiest State Initiative in 2011 in an effort to make Iowa the nation's healthiest state by 2016.

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Kelsey Hand, 17, left and Azhley Johns, 17, both senior walk with swag as students and staff members from West Burlington High School participate in the Iowa Healthiest State Initiative walk.

John Lovretta/  
The Hawk Eye

## Ready to ride



John Gaines/The Hawk Eye

Roy Clugg of Burlington pedals Wednesday on the new section of Flint River Trail, which adds an additional seven miles of trail open from Flint Bottom Road to Big Hollow Recreation Area north of Burlington.

## Trail hits halfway point

Flint River Trail opens new 9-mile stretch as effort continues.

By WILLIAM SMITH  
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It was a long time coming. After a decade of planning, fundraising and a few setbacks, a significant portion of the eventual 20-mile Flint River Trail opened to the public during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday morning.

"This project started before I got on the board, and this is my ninth year," said Des Moines County Supervisor Bob Beck. "Finally getting it to come to a head, we're very happy about that."

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Des Moines County Supervisor Bob Beck speaks Wednesday during the dedication of an additional seven miles of the Flint River Trail open from Flint Bottom Road to Big Hollow Recreation Area north of Burlington. Sections of the trail remain unfinished but when complete riders will be able to access the trail along the riverfront in Burlington and ride to Big Hollow for a total of 20 miles.

John Gaines/The Hawk Eye

## US cuts Egyptian aid funds

Hundreds of millions of dollars being withheld to encourage fair elections.

By DEB RIECHMANN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States on Wednesday cut hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to its Mideast ally Egypt, responding to the military ouster last summer of the nation's first democratically elected president and the crackdown on protesters, which has sunk the country into violent turmoil.

While the State Department did not provide a dollar amount of what was being withheld, most of it is linked to military aid. In all, the U.S. provides \$1.5 billion in aid each year to Egypt.

Officials said the aid being withheld includes 10 Apache helicopters at a cost of more than \$500 million, M1A1 tank kits and Harpoon anti-ship missiles. The U.S. also is withholding \$260 million in cash assistance to the government until "credible progress" is made toward an inclusive government set up through free and fair elections. The U.S. already had suspended the delivery of four F-16 fighter jets and canceled biennial U.S.-Egyptian military exercises.

In Cairo, military spokesman Col. Ahmed Mohammed Ali declined comment. Before the announcement, Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, the Egyptian military leader, described his country's relations with the United States as "strategic" and founded on mutual interests. But he told the Cairo daily, Al-Masry al-Youm, in an interview published Wednesday that Egypt would not tolerate pressure, "whether through actions or hints."

Neighboring Israel also has indicated concern. The Israelis consider U.S. aid to Egypt to be important support for the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel.

The State Department stressed the long-standing U.S. partnership with Egypt would continue and U.S. officials made it clear the decisions are not permanent, adding there is no intent by the Obama administration to end any specific programs. Still, the decision puts ties between the U.S. and Egypt at their rockiest point in more than three decades.

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## Sources say GOP is weighing a short-term debt limit hike

New legislation in the works as government shutdown hits 10th day.

By DAVID ESPO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republican leaders are considering a short-term increase in the U.S. debt limit as a possible way to break out of the gridlock threatening the nation with an unprecedented default in as little as a week, officials said Wednesday night.

There now is far less urgency

on Capitol Hill about ending the government shutdown, which is in its 10th day. It has caused inconvenience and financial concern for many individual Americans but appears not to threaten the widespread economic damage a default might bring.

The officials declined to say what conditions, if any, might be attached to legislation to raise the \$16.7 trillion debt limit for an undetermined period, perhaps a few weeks or months. The GOP rank and file are expected to meet and discuss the issue on Thursday, before a delegation led by Speaker John Boehner goes

to the White House to meet with President Barack Obama.

Obama has said he won't agree to sign a debt limit increase if conditions are attached. Republicans are demanding as yet-unspecified concessions to reduce deficits or make changes in the nation's three-year-old health care law.

At the same time, the House has voted to create a 20-member group of lawmakers from the House and Senate to negotiate over those and other issues — a bill that made no mention of the debt limit.

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## Union criticizes Iowa layoffs

By CATHERINE LUCEY  
Associated Press

DES MOINES — Iowa union officials said Wednesday the federal government shutdown has forced layoffs, which affect worker safety in the state.

Iowa Federation of Labor President Ken Sagar said in a news release there will soon be just three Occupational

Safety and Health Administration inspectors working in Iowa. Fourteen inspectors are being temporarily laid off due to the shutdown.

"This total disregard for the safety and well-being of working women and men is unacceptable," Sagar said. "A minority in the House of Representatives has taken the country hostage, placing millions in harm's way."

The inspectors are among the 69 employees at Iowa Workforce Development being temporarily laid off. Other affected areas are health and safety, information technology and job assistance for veterans. Some of the workers are union-represented, while others are non-contract employees.

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